

PH0501000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 12 1977

DATE ENTERED

DEC 18 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Thomas Church and Convent

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5472 South Kimbark Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Illinois

CODE

17

COUNTY

Cook

CODE

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
 ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Catholic Archbishop of Chicago

STREET & NUMBER

211 East Chicago Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Chicago Title and Trust

STREET & NUMBER

111 West Washington Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Illinois Historic Structure Survey

DATE

1972

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Thomas the Apostle Church and St. Thomas Convent, built in 1922 and 1919 respectively, are located on the southwest corner of Kimbark and 55th Streets. The length of the Church, including the narthex, is 193 feet. The width of the nave is 95 feet. The Rectory is attached at the northeast corner of the nave. The dimensions of the three-story Convent are 99 feet long by 29 feet wide. A small chapel, 47 feet by 21 feet, has niches at each end and is connected to the northeast corner of the building. In 1949, Barry Byrns designed an addition to the Convent. It is not an important element of the complex. St. Thomas School, designed by the Chicago firm of Shattuck and Leyer, is situated on the southwest corner of Woodlawn and 55th Streets, directly behind the east elevation of the Church. It is not included in the nomination.

The Church is characterized by its large undecorated expanses of brickwork. The bricks at the truncated corners of the nave and the narthex are laid in a herring-bone pattern. This becomes part of the chevron design motif translated into terra cotta around the windows, roof copings, and major entrances. On the main portal's jambs are three seven-foot angels. Over the portals the chevron motif is continued up and around a Christ figure at the pinnacle. The coping design is accentuated at equal intervals by terra cotta lanterns. This is continued by a slight protruberance of the bricks onto the north and east facades. Eight stained glass windows are grouped into pairs on each nave wall and end in points.

The narthex interior has a plaster ceiling and truncated north and southwest corners which contain stairs leading to a balcony. The flat roof is supported along its periphery by corbels rising from the tops of the walls. A wood screen divides the narthex from the nave.

The nave's plaster ceiling hangs from steel trusses hidden in the attic creating a space which appears to have no supporting structure. The ceiling is irregularly corbelled over the aisles reaching to a sloping area over the center. The sanctuary is separated from the nave by a raised marble platform and a low railing. At the end of each side aisle is a niche which contains a small chapel.

The Convent has living quarters on the second and third floors. The first floor contains study rooms, a kitchen, dining room, and meeting rooms. The exterior has a hipped, tiled roof with two projecting entrances on the east facade.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Church 1922; Convent 1919 CHURCH/ARCHITECT Francis Barry Byrne

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Francis Barry Byrne (1883-1967) was a pupil of Frank Lloyd Wright during the Oak Park Studio years. He began his apprenticeship in 1902 and left in 1909. Byrne's early work shows strong influences from his training with Wright. The J.B. Franke House in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, built in 1914, has pronounced Wrightian characteristics. Chicago has many examples of Byrne's work from throughout his entire career.

The St. Thomas complex is significant because it contains within a few feet of each other two buildings, one of which represents a transition from the early period of Byrne's career and another which represents the second period of his career. There were two periods in Byrne's career. The first period ended during World War I when the second period began. Several miles from the St. Thomas complex is the John Francis McKenna Apartments, constructed in 1916. This building is said to show "Byrne's first complete emancipation from Wright." (Chappell 1966).

The Convent in the St. Thomas complex was built in 1919. Byrne was influenced by the Prairie School in the first period of his career and the Convent reflects a tentative departure from the Prairie School. The Convent's Spanish appearance contains a study in contrasts. A distinct Wrightian feeling lingers in the Convent's low ceiling halls and natural wood-lined windows. The fenestration arrangement holds a hint of Byrne's interest in surface design that would blossom in later years when he collaborated with Alfonso Iannelli. Yet, embodied within the Convent are many of the ideas that would come to the fore when Byrne designed the Church in 1922. The Church is an example of Byrne's creativity from the second period of his career. The Church is especially important as the first positive statement of Byrne's evolving personal style to be used on a major building other than a domestic structure. The Church has his characteristic love of decorative detail, warm brick color scheme, and well-lit open spaces that flow into each other.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Brooks, H. Allen, "Studies from 'The Western Architect'", Prairie School Architect, 1975, p.304.
- Chappell, Sally Anderson, "Barry Byrne, Architect: His Formative Years," The Prairie School Review, (4th Quarter, 1966) III, No. 4, pp. 5-22.
- Peisch, Mark L., The Chicago School of Architecture, Early Followers of Sullivan and Wright, (New York: Random House, 1964)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	450	530	46	270	25	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Golden

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Preservation Council

DATE

September 27, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1203 Ash Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Winnetka

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

David Keeney

TITLE

Director, Illinois Department of Conservation

DATE June 16, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

[Signature]
 RECEIVED BY _____
 DATE _____

DATE

DATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
JUL 12 1977
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED DEC 18 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

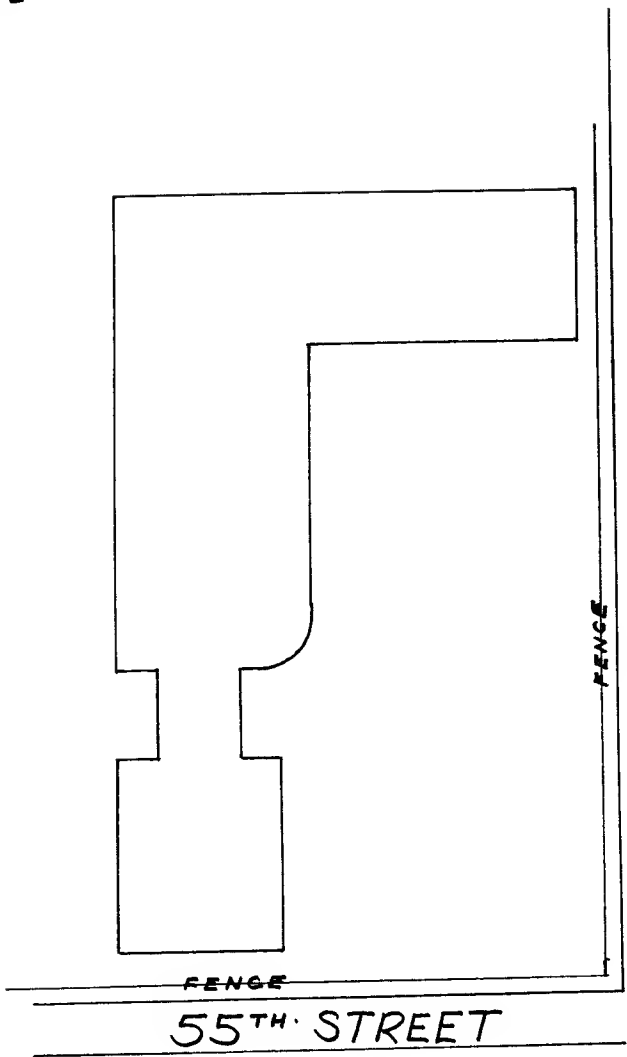
Byrne is noteworthy because of his interest in adapting the Prairie School idiom of natural materials, sensitivity to site and place for ecclesiastical architecture. In addition, he predicted innovations in liturgical developments by some forty years when he integrated the sanctuary with the nave. The style and design of this Church laid the foundation for his later commissions, for example, the Church of the King in Cork, Ireland (1926), and St. Francis Xavier in Kansas City, Missouri (1949).

The Church's exterior ^(RENAISSANCE) design is largely by Alfonso Iannelli, except for the main portal which, following a disagreement between Monseigneur Shannon and Iannelli, was designed by an unknown artist. The statue of the patron saint is by Girolami. Inside is a modern bronze Pieta (1916) and Stations of the Cross (1922) by Alfeo Faggi.

Barry Byrne's important innovations and impact on Chicago's architectural history has, as yet, to be explored. His influence in the United States and Europe will become more evident as further investigations are conducted regarding the architects who left Wright's studio. St. Thomas Church and Convent will be recognized as a milestone in Byrne's work and as a very important prototype in Church architecture.

W N
S E

RECEIVED
1928
NATIONAL
REGISTER

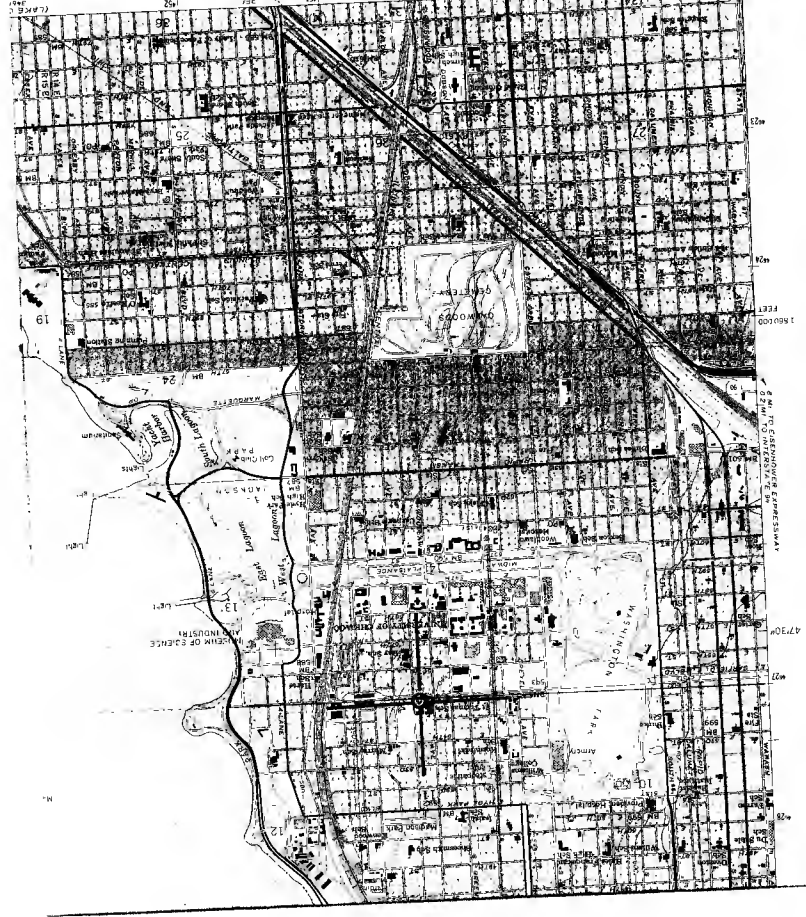


ST. THOMAS
CHURCH & CONVENT

536
660
1025

THIS MAP COMPARES WITH MAPS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

CONTAINING
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET
SCALE
1:25,000
1:50,000
1:100,000
1:200,000
1:500,000
1:1,000,000



THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Illinois Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGAS, and City of Chicago
Primarily by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1962-63. Topography by photostereoscopy, 1956. Revised 1963
This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Charts 75 (1950), 751, and 752 (1963)
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U.S. Lake Survey
1:50,000 scale, 1937 North American datum.
Photographic projection, 1:50,000 scale, East zone
1000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid lines.
June 19, shown in blue.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

INDEX MAP





ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered 12/18/78

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
\ Swan Island Site	Crawford County
\ Stoner Site	Crawford County
\ Riverton Site	Crawford County
Gundlach-Grosse House	Columbia Monroe County
St. Thomas Church and Convent	Chicago Cook County
\ Brinkerhoff, George M., House	Springfield Sangamon County
\ Central National Bank Building	Peoria Peoria County
\ Dryden, George B., House	Evanston Cook County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Daniel B. Crane
Honorable Paul M. Simon
Honorable Bennett Stewart
Honorable Paul Findley
Honorable Robert H. Michel
Honorable Abner J. Mikva

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION